Mental Health

Suicide Prevention

10/7/20
3:00 pm EST
2:00 pm CT
1:00 pm MT
12:00 pm PT
11:00 am Alaska

Objectives: Increase understanding of preventing suicide among Native American Veterans and the VHA’s suicide prevention program by covering information on suicide among Native American Veterans and the VHA’s approach to partnering with communities including Native Nations. We will discuss warning signs of suicide and what to do, including resources to contact or refer Veterans to and the role of VHA suicide prevention coordinators in supporting Veterans.

Edgar Pretty On Top: My name is Edgar Pretty On Top and I am from Lodge Grass, MT. I am a proud member of the Crow tribe and even more proud to be the father of two beautiful children—my son Dillon and my daughter Alyssa Rose—they are my world. I am equally proud to be bilingual, Crow being my primary language, English second. I grew up hunting and camping the Wolf Mountains and Big Horn Mountains with my dad and uncles and am grateful to my parents for introducing me to the Crow style of dancing—I love dancing and traveling to powwows representing my style of dance; otherwise I’m a ‘quiet’ and unassuming person. During my undergrad I played college basketball earning my spot as a walk-on and participated in college rodeo as well, as a bareback rider—which I can honestly say I probably bucked off more than I stayed on for the required 8 seconds. After graduating from undergrad I taught for two years on the Ft Peck Indian reservation in Poplar, MT. After teaching I began my career path as a social worker by attending and graduating from the University of Utah Graduate School of Social Work. Coincidentally, my mom is a retired teacher and my dad is a retired social worker, he (my dad) once told me on one of our many talks about life and future that I should not choose teaching or social work because of my mom or him…well I didn’t, I think both honorable professions chose me. I have the privilege of being employed by the Sheridan VAHCS as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the capacities of the Suicide Prevention Coordinator and REACH-VET Coordinator, serving our Veterans.

To participate please join us in Webex

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If you have questions or require special accommodations, contact Clay Ward, David.Ward@va.gov, 202-461-7445